



News Release

Nationally-Touring Exhibit -- Focus on Living: Portraits of Americans with HIV and AIDS -- visits University of Minnesota Crookston

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, March 29, 2005

Over 900,000 Americans are living with HIV (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.) One quarter of these is unaware of their infection. There are approximately 40,000 new HIV infections each year in the United States. Of these newly infected, half are under 25 years of age.

The nationally-touring photograph-text exhibit, FOCUS ON LIVING: Portraits of Americans with HIV and AIDS, showcases sixteen Americans living with HIV and AIDS. This exhibit will be shown locally at Sahlstrom Conference Center, University of Minnesota, Crookston, April 4-8, 2005.

The touring Focus on Living exhibit offers a powerful HIV/AIDS education resource for communities. Focus on Living is the work of acclaimed photographer/writer, Roslyn Banish, author of four books exploring human issues by combining photographs and text. Focus on Living is based on the book, Focus on Living, (U. Mass Press) with introduction by Paul A. Volberding, M.D., Vice-Chair, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco.

Young and old, gay, straight – from a diverse array of geographic, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds – Focus on Living subjects speak candidly about their lives, relationships, and how they have come to terms with the presence of this chronic and potentially deadly disease. What becomes clear in these interviews is that HIV is everybody's disease—it knows no boundaries.

Publishers Weekly, in a recent Focus on Living book review, noted: "Banish's unadorned portraits... are subtle and dignified, and the narratives have a lucid strength... (She) takes care to include people from all walks of life... fostering an expanded sense of community..."

Focus on Living travels nationwide to schools (8-12,) universities, health and social welfare agencies, medical schools, public libraries, community centers, museums, conferences, hospitals, workplaces, and places of worship. For more information contact Pamela Holsinger-Fuchs 281-8505.

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